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09/930,780	08/15/2001	Carrel W. Ewing	MLF-600-14	3325

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EXAMINER

PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2154

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/930,780

Applicant(s)

EWING ET AL.

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/10/04, 8/15/01.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Application Number 09/930, 780 was filed on 08/30/2000. Claims 10-32 are subject to examination.

Priority

2. Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 as follows:

The later-filed application must be an application for a patent for an invention which is also disclosed in the prior application (the parent or original nonprovisional application or provisional application); the disclosure of the invention in the parent application and in the later-filed application must be sufficient to comply with the requirements of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. See *Transco Products, Inc. v. Performance Contracting, Inc.*, 38 F.3d 551, 32 USPQ2d 1077 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

The instant application's incorporation of "a user display disposed on vertical strip enclosure whereby a user may observe information relative to the amount of current flowing through the power input and plurality of power outputs as shown in Fig.1, element 104 " which Examiner was unable to locate in the applications 09/735, 471 and 08/685, 436. And as such, the priority date was considered as being 12/08/2000.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The following title is

suggested: REMOTELY CONTROLLED RACK MOUNT ELECTRICAL POWER
DISTRIBUTION PLUGSTRIP

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10-23, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being
Unpatentable over Schreiber (US 5, 424, 903) in view of Lovrenich (US 5, 619, 722)

Referring to claim 10,

The reference Schreiber teaches an electrical power distribution on plugstrip of the type for providing power to one or more electrical loads in a vertical electrical equipment rack (Fig.1, element 16, Fig.2), the electrical power distribution plugstrip comprising in combination:

- A. a vertical strip enclosure having a long length and relatively thin width (Fig.1, element 16);
- B. a power input penetrating said vertical strip enclosure (Fig.1, element 30);
- C. a plurality of power outputs disposed along said long length of the strip enclosure, each among the plurality of power outputs being connectable to a corresponding one of said one or more electrical loads (Fig.1, elements 32a-32f);
- D. a plurality of power control relays disposed in said vertical strip enclosure, each among said plurality of power control relays being connected to independently control

power from said power input to one or more corresponding power outputs among said plurality of power outputs (Fig.2, elements 46a-46e). The reference fails to teach a user display disposed on said vertical strip enclosure in information-determining communication with at least one among said power input and said plurality of power outputs, whereby a user may observe information relative to the amount of current flowing through at least one among the power input and said plurality of power outputs. The reference Lovrenich teaches "a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer interface can be inexpensively manufactured." In col. 3, lines 8-14. The reference also teaches a digital Ammeter which can be interfaced for communication over the network in Fig.1, element 24, col. 6, lines 29-59. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding the interface and the interface-able ammeter of Lovrenich such that "The computer 32 can then signal the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24) to perform functions such as transmitting its present measurement (whereby a user may observe information relative to the amount of current flowing through at least one among the power input and said plurality of power outputs, in person or over the network), changing the scale of measurement, clearing its memories, or initiating a calibration routine. The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device. Supposing that the computer inquires the present voltage measurement from the

Art Unit: 2154

voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24), the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24) would then transmit a data signal which represents the measurement through the interface 30 for reception by the computer 32. After a step such as processing or storing the measurement, the computer 32 could either signal the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24) to perform a further function or could transmit a further address signal in order to access another of the devices as taught by the reference Lovrenich in col. 6, lines 46-59.

Referring to claim 11,

The reference Schreiber teaches electrical power plugstrip of claim 10 further comprising at least one intelligent power section disposed in the vertical strip enclosure and in which is disposed at least one of the plurality of power control relays (col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is nonprogrammable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device.", and Fig.2, elements 46a-46e).

Referring to claim 12,

The reference Schreiber teaches "The sequence in which the switches 26c-26e are actuated and the time delay between successive actuation of the switches 26c-26e are stored in the memory of the microprocessor 40.(col.6, lines 36-40). The reference discloses that the microprocessor incorporated by the power strip has the capability to store and execute the commands pertaining to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs.(the vertical strip enclosure in network communication with the intelligent power section disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, whereby a user of the external power manager may control power provided to selectable ones of said plurality of power

Art Unit: 2154

outputs.) Although, the reference teaches the external power manager which is a hardware device, Fig.1, element 14, which is used to control power provided to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs as stated in col. 6, lines 15-54, and although the hardware functionality of the device Fig.1, element can be implemented as being carried out by the software, since the claim includes external power manager application, the external power manager application is interpreted as being exclusively a software and its relevant hardware and as such, the reference explicitly fails to teach an external power manager application. The reference Lovrenich teaches "a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer interface can be inexpensively manufactured." In col. 3, lines 8-14. The reference also teaches "The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device.", col. 6, lines 50-51. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding the interface of Lovrenich such that the programming aspect of the hardware device of Schreiber is replaced and carried out by the interface of Lovrenich because the reference Lovrenich has disclosed that "the extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device."

Referring to claim 13,

Art Unit: 2154

The electrical power plugstrip of claim 10 further comprising a plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, each said intelligent power section being in independent communication with at least a corresponding one or more among the plurality of power outputs (col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.", col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section.(a plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, each said intelligent power section being in independent communication with at least a corresponding one or more among the plurality of power outputs.)

Referring to claim 14,

The reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.", col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. (and in network communication with the plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, whereby a user of the external power manager may control power provided to selectable ones of said plurality of power outputs.) Although, the reference teaches the external power manager which is a hardware device, Fig.1, element 14, which is used to control power provided to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs

as stated in col. 6, lines 15-54, and although the hardware functionality of the device Fig.1, element can be implemented as being carried out by the software, since the claim includes external power manager application, the external power manager application is interpreted as being exclusively a software and its relevant hardware and as such, the reference explicitly fails to teach an external power manager application. The reference Lovrenich teaches "a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer interface can be inexpensively manufactured." In col. 3, lines 8-14. (an external power manager application external to the vertical strip enclosure) The reference also teaches "The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device.", col. 6, lines 50-51. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding the interface of Lovrenich such that the programming aspect of the hardware device of Schreiber is replaced and carried out by the interface of Lovrenich because the reference Lovrenich has disclosed that "the extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device."

Referring to claim 15,

Keeping in mind the teachings of the reference Schreiber as stated above, the reference fails to teach the electrical power plugstrip of claim 10 wherein the user display is in current-determining communication with all among the plurality of power

Art Unit: 2154

outputs through at least one current sensing device. The reference Lovrenich teaches "a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer interface can be inexpensively manufactured." In col. 3, lines 8-14. The reference also teaches a digital Ammeter which can be interfaced for communication over the network in Fig.1, element 24, col. 6, lines 29-59. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding the interface and the interface-able ammeter of Lovrenich such that "The computer 32 can then signal the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24) to perform functions such as transmitting its present measurement (whereby a user may observe information relative to the amount of current flowing through at least one among the power input and said plurality of power outputs, in person or over the network), changing the scale of measurement, clearing its memories, or initiating a calibration routine. The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device. Supposing that the computer inquires the present voltage measurement from the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24), the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24) would then transmit a data signal which represents the measurement through the interface 30 for reception by the computer 32. After a step such as processing or storing the measurement, the computer 32 could either signal the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24) to perform a further function or could transmit a further

address signal in order to access another of the devices as taught by the reference Lovrenich in col. 6, lines 46-59.

Referring to claims 16 and 17,

As stated above, especially, the reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.", col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. However, the reference fails to teach the electrical power plugstrip of claim 13 wherein the user display is in current-determining communication with all among the plurality of power outputs through at least one current sensing device. The reference Lovrenich

Art Unit: 2154

teaches "a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer interface can be inexpensively manufactured." In col. 3, lines 8-14. The reference also teaches a digital Ammeter which can be interfaced for communication over the network in Fig.1, element 24, col. 6, lines 29-59. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding the interface and the interface-able ammeter of Lovrenich such that "The computer 32 can then signal the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24) to perform functions such as transmitting its present measurement (whereby a user may observe information relative to the amount of current flowing through at least one among the power input and said plurality of power outputs, in person or over the network), changing the scale of measurement, clearing its memories, or initiating a calibration routine. The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device. Supposing that the computer inquires the present voltage measurement from the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24), the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24) would then transmit a data signal which represents the measurement through the interface 30 for reception by the computer 32. After a step such as processing or storing the measurement, the computer 32 could either signal the voltmeter 22 (ammeter 24) to perform a further function or could transmit a further address signal in order to access another of the devices as taught by the reference Lovrenich in col. 6, lines 46-59, and the reference Lovrenich has disclosed

that "the extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device."

Referring to claims 18 ,19 ,20, 21, 22 and 23,

The reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.", col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference impliedly teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. The reference also teaches the power control relays as claimed in Fig.2, elements 46a-46e and master relay 42.. (wherein said intelligent power section comprises an intelligent power module having at least one of the plurality of power control relays and the

Art Unit: 2154

corresponding power output for such one power control relay, and the corresponding power outputs for such one power control relay)

Referring to claim 26,

The reference Schreiber teaches "The sequence in which the switches 26c-26e are actuated and the time delay between successive actuation of the switches 26c-26e are stored in the memory of the microprocessor 40.(col.6, lines 36-40). The reference discloses that the microprocessor incorporated by the power strip has the capability to store and execute the commands pertaining to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs.(the vertical strip enclosure in network communication with the intelligent power section disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, whereby a user of the external power manager may control power provided to selectable ones of said plurality of power outputs.) Although, the reference teaches the external power manager which is a hardware device, Fig.1, element 14, which is used to control power provided to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs as stated in col. 6, lines 15-54; and although the hardware functionality of the device Fig.1, element can be implemented as being carried out by the software, since the claim includes external power manager application, the external power manager application is interpreted as being exclusively a software and its relevant hardware and as such, the reference explicitly fails to teach an external power manager application . The reference Lovrenich teaches "a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer

Art Unit: 2154

interface can be inexpensively manufactured." In col. 3, lines 8-14. The reference also teaches "The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device.", col. 6, lines 50-51. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding the interface of Lovrenich such that the programming aspect of the hardware device of Schreiber is replaced and carried out by the interface of Lovrenich because the reference Lovrenich has disclosed that "the extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device."

Referring to claim 28,

The reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include,

inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.”, col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. (and in network communication with the plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, whereby a user of the external power manager may control power provided to selectable ones of said plurality of power outputs.) Although, the reference teaches the external power manager which is a hardware device, Fig.1, element 14, which is used to control power provided to selectable ones of plurality of power outputs as stated in col. 6, lines 15-54, and although the hardware functionality of the device Fig.1, element can be implemented as being carried out by the software, since the claim includes external power manager application, the external power manager application is interpreted as being exclusively a software and its relevant hardware and as such, the reference explicitly fails to teach an external power manager application. The reference Lovrenich teaches “a computer interface that is capable of providing an unlimited number of addressable multiplexed output ports to interface with remote peripheral devices, wherein the remote peripheral devices need not have inherent addressing circuitry, and wherein the computer interface can be inexpensively manufactured.” In col. 3, lines 8-14. (an external power manager application external to the vertical strip enclosure) The reference also teaches “The extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device.”, col. 6, lines 50-51. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time

Art Unit: 2154

of invention was made to enhance the functionality of the power strip of Schreiber by adding the interface of Lovrenich such that the programming aspect of the hardware device of Schreiber is replaced and carried out by the interface of Lovrenich because the reference Lovrenich has disclosed that "the extent of the functions which can be performed depend on the capabilities of the device."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 24, 25, 27 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schreiber (US 5, 424, 903)

Referring to claim 24,

The reference Schreiber teaches an electrical power distribution plugstrip of the type for providing power to one or more electrical loads in a vertical electrical equipment rack (Fig.1 element 16, Fig.2), the electrical power distribution plugstrip comprising in combination:

- A. a vertical strip enclosure having a long length and relatively thin width (Fig.1 , element 16);
- B. a power input penetrating said vertical strip enclosure (Fig.1, element 30);

- C. a plurality of power outputs disposed along said long length of the strip enclosure, each among the plurality of power outputs being connectable to a corresponding one of said one or more electrical loads (Fig.1, elements 32a-32f); and
- D. a plurality of power control relays disposed in said vertical strip enclosure, each among said plurality of power control relays being connected to individually control power from said power input to one or more corresponding power outputs among said plurality of power outputs (Fig.2, elements 46a-46e).

Referring to claim 25,

The reference Schreiber teaches the electrical power plugstrip of claim 24 further comprising at least one intelligent power section disposed in the vertical strip enclosure and in which is disposed at least one of the plurality of power control relays. (col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is nonprogrammable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device.", and Fig.2, elements 46a-46e).

Referring to claim 27,

The electrical power plugstrip of claim 10 further comprising a plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, each said intelligent power section being in independent communication with at least a corresponding one or more among the plurality of power outputs (col.4, lines 6-9, "The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device." The reference also teaches "It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The

Art Unit: 2154

embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.”, col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference impliedly teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. (a plurality of intelligent power sections disposed in the vertical strip enclosure, each said intelligent power section being in independent communication with at least a corresponding one or more among the plurality of power outputs.)

Referring to claims 29, 30, 31 and 32,

The reference Schreiber teaches in col.4, lines 6-9, “The outlets 32a-32e are programmable. The outlet 32f is non-programmable and is be used to supply electrical power to a lamp 34 or other non-system device.” The reference also teaches “It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the

scope of the invention. For example, the system 10 may be implemented using alternative electronic components, rather than as herein described. Further, it will be appreciated that different elements of the system may be embodied as a single integrated chip, or any varying combination of discrete digital or analog components interconnected in a standard manner. The system may be used to supply power to a variety of devices other than components of a computer system. Examples include, inter alia, lighting devices, consumer electronic products such as stereos, players, cable TV arrangements, and other systems.", col.7, lines 65 thru col.8, lines 14. Thereby the reference impliedly teaches that additional groups of the receptacles can be added and formed as being separately controlled as being the intelligent power section. The reference also teaches the power control relays as claimed in Fig.2, elements 46a-46e and master relay 42. (wherein said intelligent power section comprises an intelligent power module having at least one of the plurality of power control relays and the corresponding power output for such one power control relay, and the corresponding power outputs for such one power control relay)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (703) 305-2655. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone

Art Unit: 2154

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abp



JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100